Plant inspired techniques for dispersion of payloads

Sarita Thakoor and Dara Sabahi, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91109-8099

ARSTRACT

This paper presents a few envisioned biomorphic missions for distribution of instruments/biomorphic surface systems (payload) by using ideas inspired from seed dispersal in the plant-world such as dandelions and seed wing pods. These are illustrated in figure s 1, and 2.

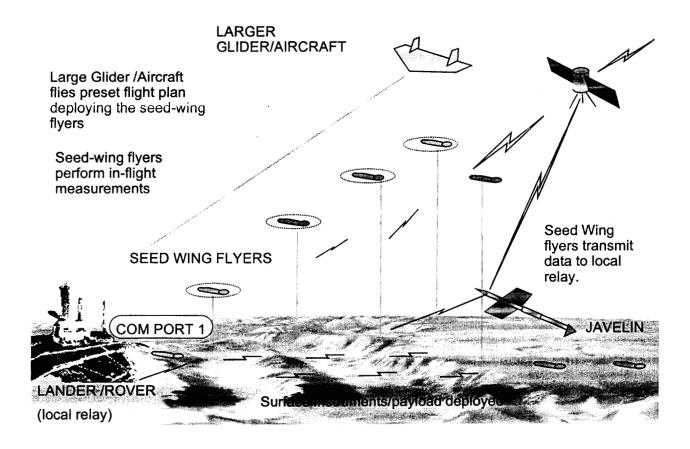


Figure 1. Deployment scenario where the seed wings are aerially deployed by a glider/aircraft

Figure 2. Deployment scenario where the seed wing cluster is aerially deployed directly after initial slow down